

# Time of Maternal HIV Testing among Children Perinatally Exposed or Infected or with AIDS, Reported in 2000, United States

	Perinatally Acquired AIDS*		HIV Exposed**		HIV Infected**	
	N=177		N=3,325		N=196	
Time of maternal HIV test	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Before or at birth	75	42	3,167	95	105	54
After birth	60	34	94	3	53	27
Unknown	42	24	64	2	38	19

\* Excludes 19 children with AIDS reported in 2000 whose HIV exposure category was unknown or other than perinatal

\*\* From 36 areas with confidential pediatric HIV infection surveillance

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It is important for HIV-infected pregnant women to know their HIV status so they can make informed decisions about antiretroviral therapy to reduce perinatal transmission of HIV to their infants. The Public Health Service recommends that all pregnant women be offered HIV counseling and voluntary HIV testing. For children reported to CDC in 2000 as perinatally exposed to HIV, 95% were born to women who were tested before or at the time of birth. For children who were perinatally HIV-infected, 54% of them had a mother who was tested before or at birth; among children diagnosed with AIDS, 42% were born to women tested before or at birth. An additional 27% of infected children and 34% of children with AIDS were born to mothers tested after the children's birth. These data demonstrate that early testing and, therefore, the increased potential for ZDV therapy to prevent transmission, can help to reduce HIV infection among children.